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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
200 PM EST FRI NOV 18 2011

...TORNADO CONFIRMED FROM CENTRAL DAVIDSON COUNTY TO WESTERN RANDOLPH
COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA...
...UPDATED PATH LENGTH AND UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING RANDOLPH
COUNTY DAMAGE...

LOCATION...CENTRAL DAVIDSON COUNTY TO WESTERN RANDOLPH COUNTY NC
DATE...NOVEMBER 16, 2011
ESTIMATED TIME...6:05 PM TO 6:25 PM EST
MAXIMUM EF-SCALE RATING...EF2
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM WIND SPEED...135 MPH
MAXIMUM PATH WIDTH...200 YARDS
PATH LENGTH...12.5 MILES
BEGINNING LAT/LON...35.732N / 80.210W
ENDING LAT/LON...35.806N / 80.007W
* FATALITIES...2
* INJURIES...UNKNOWN

* THE INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO
CHANGE PENDING FINAL REVIEW OF THE EVENT(S) AND PUBLICATION IN NWS
STORM DATA.

...SUMMARY...
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN RALEIGH NC HAS CONFIRMED A TORNADO
WITH A CONTINUOUS OR NEARLY SO...12.5 MILE DAMAGE PATH...FROM ABOUT
5 MILES EAST OF LINWOOD IN DAVIDSON COUNTY TO ABOUT 10 MILES
NORTHWEST OF ASHEBORO IN RANDOLPH COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA ON NOVEMBER
16...2011. DAMAGE ALONG THE PATH WAS FOUND TO BE EF1 TO EF2 ON THE
ENHANCED FUJITA TORNADO RATING SCALE...WITH WIND SPEEDS BETWEEN 90
AND 135 MPH.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:05 PM EST ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011...A
SUPERCCELL THUNDERSTORM PRODUCED A TORNADO THAT TOUCHED DOWN IN
CENTRAL DAVIDSON COUNTY. THE FIRST...SOUTHWESTERN-MOST OBSERVED
DAMAGE WITH INITIAL TORNADO TOUCHDOWN...WAS IN THE FORM OF SNAPPED
AND UPROOTED TREES ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 47...NEAR THE PARKS ROAD
INTERSECTION. THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE WAS TO
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN THE NEARBY SILVER RIDGE SUBDIVISION...OFF
OF ALLRED ROAD. THE ROOFS WERE LIFTED OFF MULTIPLE HOMES...AND
MOSTLY EXTERIOR WALLS WERE BLOWN OUT. THIS DAMAGE IS CONSISTENT
WITH EF2 TORNADO INTENSITY. THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE HOMES HAD BEEN
CARRIED ABOUT 150 YARDS...ABOVE A GROVE OF TREES...AND DEPOSITED
INTO THE YARD OF ANOTHER HOME. AN OUTBUILDING/STORAGE SHED...WHOSE
CONTENTS WERE SWEEPED ABOUT 50 FEET INTO THE SIDE YARD ADJACENT TO
THE HOME...WAS ALSO COMPLETELY DESTROYED. TREES WERE TOPPLED
MOSTLY IN TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE TRACK OF THE TORNADO.
EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS SUGGEST THE TORNADO LASTED BETWEEN ABOUT 20
AND 40 SECONDS. ONLY MINOR INJURIES WERE NOTED TO RESIDENTS...AND
MOST WERE AWARE THE TORNADO WAS APPROACHING VIA PHONE CALLS FROM
RELATIVES...OR TELEVISION/NEWS COVERAGE. IN FACT...A NEIGHBORING
FAMILY HAD TIME TO LEAVE THEIR HOME AND GO TO A NEIGHBORS TO SEEK
SHELTER IN THEIR BASEMENT...UPON LEARNING OF THE TORNADO WARNING.
TWO FRONT WINDOWS OF A NEIGHBORING HOME...WHICH SUSTAINED SIMILAR
DAMAGE...WERE HEARD TO HAVE BLOWN OUT WHEN THE TORNADO INITIALLY
STRUCK...AND THE ENTRY OF THE WIND INTO THIS PORTION OF THE HOME

IS THOUGHT TO HAVE CAUSED THE ROOF TO LIFT AND REAR EXTERIOR WALLS TO COLLAPSE.

THE TORNADO CONTINUED EAST NORTHEASTWARD TO OLD BURKHART ROAD... WHERE AT APPROXIMATELY 6:10 PM EST...IT BLEW A TRAILER UP TO A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FEET DOWNWIND; DOWNED POWER LINES; AND TOPPLED A TREE THROUGH A RESIDENCE. A REFRIGERATOR AND TIN ROOFING FROM AN UNKNOWN LOCATION WERE DEPOSITED IN AN ADJACENT OPEN FIELD.

THE TORNADO THEN TRACKED THROUGH A SMALL COMMUNITY ON MEADOW RUN LANE SHORTLY AFTER 6:10 PM EST. TWO HOMES WERE SLID FROM THE FOUNDATION...INCLUDING THE HOME WHERE THERE WERE TWO CONFIRMED FATALITIES. THAT HOME WAS WIPED COMPLETELY FROM THE FOUNDATION... AND UPON INITIAL INSPECTION... WOULD SUGGEST HIGHER MAXIMUM WIND SPEEDS AND EF-SCALE RATING. HOWEVER...THE HOME WAS LOCATED ON THE EDGE OF A STEEP EMBANKMENT. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SLIDING OF THE HOME...IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO ONE ACROSS THE STREET TWO DOORS DOWN THAT REMAINED UPRIGHT ON FLAT GROUND...CAUSED THE HOME TO COLLAPSE DOWN THE EMBANKMENT AND AWAY FROM THE FOUNDATION ABOVE. AN AUTOMOBILE HAD BEEN ROLLED FORCEFULLY INTO AN ADJACENT STAND OF TREES AT THE TOP OF THE EMBANKMENT. DAMAGE HERE IS CONSISTENT WITH EF2 TORNADO INTENSITY.

THE TORNADO TRAVELED EAST NORTHEASTWARD AND CAUSED STRUCTURAL DAMAGE...MAINLY TO ROOFING...OF A LOWES DISTRIBUTION CENTER; SKIPPERS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT; AND GIDDY-KWIK SERVICE STATION BETWEEN 6:15 PM AND 6:20 PM EST. A NEARBY FORMER MARINE DEALER SUSTAINED HEAVIER DAMAGE. THE DOWNWIND EXTERIOR WALLS AND ROOF OF THIS BUILDING HAD BEEN BLOWN INTO THE ADJACENT PARKING LOT...WHILE THE UPWIND AND ADJOINING INTERIOR WALLS HAD BEEN LEFT STANDING. THE DAMAGE TO THE FORMER MARINE DEALER WAS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH EF2 DAMAGE...WITH WEAKER...PERIPHERAL EF1 DAMAGE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.

THE NEXT STRUCTURAL DAMAGE OCCURRED AT THE LAUREL DRIVE AAA MOBILE HOME PARK AT APPROXIMATELY 6:20 PM EST. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE HERE WAS A TREE TOPPLED THROUGH THE REAR OF ONE OF THE HOMES...AND ANOTHER HOME FACING OLD BURKHART ROAD WAS SHIFTED FROM THE FOUNDATION. TREE DAMAGE IN THIS AREA APPEARED TO BE MORE MINOR THAN SURROUNDING AREAS...AND DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE PARK WAS CONSISTENT WITH EF1 INTENSITY.

THE TORNADO THEN CROSSED INTO WESTERN RANDOLPH COUNTY AT APPROXIMATELY 6:23 PM EST...WHERE NUMEROUS HOMES IN THE WELBORNE RIDGE COURT SUBDIVISION WERE DAMAGED. DAMAGE HERE WAS MOSTLY TO ROOFS AND SIDING. THE EXCEPTION WAS A HOME WHERE A TRAVEL TRAILER WAS FLIPPED AND SLID...AND A NEARBY FULL-SIZED PICKUP TRUCK SLID...BOTH BETWEEN 50 AND 75 FEET. A 12 BY 24 FT WOODEN OUTBUILDING AT THE SAME RESIDENCE WAS ALSO LARGELY DESTROYED. DAMAGE WITHIN THE SUBDIVISION WAS CONSISTENT WITH EF1 TORNADO INTENSITY.

THE LAST OBSERVED TORNADO DAMAGE AND END POINT OF THE TORNADO TRACK WAS TO A BARN ON FINCH FARM ROAD AT APPROXIMATELY 6:25 PM EST. DAMAGE TO THE BARN WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF THE NEARBY WELBORNE RIDGE COURT SUBDIVISION...AND ALSO EF1 INTENSITY.

THE NWS INITIALLY RECEIVED A REPORT OF ADDITIONAL STORM DAMAGE NEAR RANDLEMAN IN RANDOLPH COUNTY...WHICH WAS EAST SOUTHEAST OF THE LAST OBSERVED TORNADO DAMAGE...AND WELL REMOVED FROM THE EXTRAPOLATED TRACK OF THE TORNADO PATH. UPON FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH RANDOLPH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS WHO INSPECTED THE REPORTED LOCATION...IT APPEARS THAT THE INITIAL REPORT WAS FALSE AS NO DAMAGE WAS FOUND AT THAT LOCATION.

THIS INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WEATHER.GOV/RAH.

FOR REFERENCE...THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE CLASSIFIES TORNADOES INTO
THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

EF0...WIND SPEEDS 65 TO 85 MPH.
EF1...WIND SPEEDS 86 TO 110 MPH.
EF2...WIND SPEEDS 111 TO 135 MPH.
EF3...WIND SPEEDS 136 TO 165 MPH.
EF4...WIND SPEEDS 166 TO 200 MPH.
EF5...WIND SPEEDS GREATER THAN 200 MPH.

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NP/MWS